

The Last

SPEECHES AND CONFESSIONS

OF

Captain Thomas Walcott, John Rowe, and

William Hoag, Joyner

At the Common Place of

EXECUTION

On Friday the 20th of this present July, 1683

Who were all found Guilty of

High-Treason,

For Conspiring the Death of

His Most Sacred Majesty,

And his Royal Brother

James Duke of York.

So the Jury having taken notice of what he Confessed, immediately
The many and continual Judgements which are inflicted
 upon resolute Offenders, but especially such as study &
 contrive the shedding of innocent blood, methinks might
 be sufficient to deter and hinder others from their wil-
 ked practices; but such is the stubbornness of this Age, that
 they are rather hardened than mollified by the threatening dangers
 of a displeased Deity. How many Horrid and Damnable Plots
 have been Conspired against His most Gracious Majesty; which by
 the mercy and Providence of the Almighty have all proved ineffectual,
 and proclaimed the impudence of the Authors to be unparalleled;

so, and made by this horrid Conspiracy, they obtained the
goodness of God, and they, how, when they thought themselves
as good as certain of their carrying on their design answerable to
their own minds, and bloody dispositions, that then their in-
trigues were laid open, the Treasons discovered, and their own
lives brought into a question, you may read in these following
Lines.

At the Sessions of Oyer and Terminer, that began at the Old Bay-
ly on the 24th July 1688. And when the Court was full,
Captain *Thomas Walcott* appeared at the Bar, his Indictment be-
ing read he pleaded not guilty; but *Coll. Ramsey* testified upon
Oath that there had been divers Consultations about killing the
King as He was to return from *Newmarket*; and that it was desig-
ned to be acted near the dwelling House of one *Richard a Mal-*
ster, not far from *Wadham* in *Herefordshire*; and that *Walcott* was
in nomination to be the person that should perpetrate this Villany,
but he refused to do that, and chose rather to save his Life, Disregard
which was attending His Majesty, that they being cut off, they
might the more readily carry on their purpose.

Colonel Ramsey declared that there was several Consultations
held about this Diabolical Conivance, which the Lord Chief
Justice *Pemberton* by diligent enquiry into, found to be at several
places, namely at *Mr. Wests Chamber*, and at a Tavern within
Aldgate, and about *White-chapel*, to which *Walcott* pleaded,
that at that time these Consultations were held, he was lame
of the War, and whence offered to justify the same, made answer,
that it was so, but he could not say about what time, and
whether it was just at that time or not he could not positively
swear.

Then Captain *Walcott* reply'd that it was very hard that four
men should conspire against his Life, and impeaching him have
the Law.

But Mr. Attorney General opened the Case, laying open the
danger of concealing Treason, to which he answered that he was
merely drawn in to the concern, and also that he thought conceal-
ling of Treason was but misprision of Treason, but my Lord an-
swered that to be in Consultation and not to discover was real
Treason.

So the Jury having taken notice of what he Confessed, imme-
diately brought in their Verdict, that he was Guilty of High
Treason.

Will. Home having been Examined on Thursday was again
brought to the Bar on Friday morning, and then desired the Plea
he made yesterday might be allowed, which was, that he was
Guilty of a Conspiracy, but not concerned in raising of Arms to
cause a Rebellion, but the Indictment imported, that was a false
Treason he had Conspired to Depose the King of His Crown and
Dignity, and particularly at a Consultation the second of March,
in the Parish of *St. Michael Basson*, where *Rumfeld*, *Thompson*,
Hollway, *Kee*, *Fraunce* and *Richard Goodenough*, and many other
Tray-

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Traitorous Conspirators were present, and that they called the King, Blackbird, and the Duke the Goldfinch, the Prisoner confessing as he did commit the Death of the Blackbird but not of the Goldfinch, this with other things alleged and sworn against him, caused the Jury to give in their Verdict, Guilty, without going (as the Bar) that their Companions and Accomplices had been concerned with. Only the Captain learned the most of them, and was concerned.

The next that came to the Bar was Mr. *Rouse*, who had several Witnesses sworn against him, and accused him of the same manner of Crimes as was sworn against *Mr. Rouse*; He could make but little defence for himself; it being absolutely sworn against him, That he had a Hand in the Conspiracy against his Majesty's Life: But, notwithstanding all his tender evasions, the Court soon brought him in Guilty of **HIGH-TREASON**; And he was charged with several Treasonable Designs, as, *only to destroy the King's Majesty, but also to levy war, and by stirring the people up to rebellion, to take possession and Subvert the Government*. All which the Witnesses for the King positively swore; and he being not able to prove, the Sentence was past against him, and the other in manner following:

But the CROWD being very great, we can give you but some short Account of what they look'd & said there.
Execution.

That they should be Drawn upon *Hayes* to the place of Execution, and there to be hanged by the Neck, their Privy Members to be cut off before their Faces, and thrown into the Fire; then their heads to be cut off, and their Bodies Quartered, and their Quarters to be set up, as in such Cases of Treason is usual.

It is a pity that so many should have and will have their names so much engaged themselves in such a horrid conspiracy, that the world before never heard of, because this Plot was contrived by persons pretending to zeal and Religion, which is not, nor cannot be feasible to rules of Christianity, for we all know that shedding of blood is clearly contrary to the commands of the Almighty.

During the time of their Imprisonment they seemed very penitent, and were full of remorse of their past iniquity, and that they were now in the hands of their Enemies. They also lamented their fate, and the manner in which they had brought upon themselves, by following such wicked and treacherable practices, in contriving the Death of his Gracious Majesty. Other times upbraiding their Companions and Accomplishers, that they had formerly been concerned with. Only the Captain seemed the most obstinate, and least concerned.

When the day came, which was the 11th of March, 1649, being the 11th day of their Execution, having taken leave of their Friends and Acquaintance, they were drawn in Sledges, attended with a number of Guards of Cavaliers and other Officers, and being brought to the place of Execution, they made their several speeches and exhortations to the people that stood round about them, in-structing them to take warning by their untimely end, and to have in mind what Company they keep, warning all persons to fear God, and to honour their King, and to avoid all Treacherable Practices, which will assuredly bring destruction both to Soul and Body. One of them seemed to exculpate his Crime, and to blame the King for the same, and to say that he was concerned with it.

But the CROWD being very great, we can give you but some short Account of what they Spoke before their Execution.

V When the Executioner had done his work, the eyes of the multitude were filled with tears, every one lamenting the sad conditions of these poor and miserable wretches, who had engaged themselves in to this bloody enterprise: but too late they may lament their sad destinies.

It is great pity that so many brave and worthy Gentlemen should engage themselves in such a horrid conspiracy that the world before never heard of, because this Plot was contrived by persons pretending to zeal and Religion, which is not, nor cannot be suitable to rules of Christianity, for we all know that shedding of blood is clearly contrary to the commands of the Almighty.